

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00346 210735Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCI-06 COME-00 EB-11 AGR-20 TRSE-00

IO-14 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5808

UNCLAS PRAGUE 0346

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ECON, SENV, CZ

SUBJ: CZECHOSLOVAK PRECIPITATION, AGRICULTURE, AND ECONOMY

1. CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS BEEN HAVING THIRD DRY MILD WINTER IN ROW. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM STATE METEOROLOGICAL INSTITUTE AT KOMORANY NEAR PRAGUE THAT WHILE OVERALL PRECIPITATION IN CZECH REPUBLIC (BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA) IN JANUARY WAS 83PERCENT OF AVERAGE 43MM., PRECIPITATION IN FIRST HALF OF FEBRUARY WAS ONLY ABOUT HALF OF AVERAGE

35.5 MM. TEMPERATURES HAVE REMAINED HIGH, AND SPRING SOWING OF BARLEY HAS ALREADY BEGUN IN SOME AREAS OF SOUTHERN MORAVIA AND SOUTHERN SLOVAKIA, WHERE AUTHORITIES FEAR CONTINUED DRYNESS COULD MAKE SOWING LATER MORE HAZARDOUS. WHETHER MILD WEATHER CAN BE EXPECTED TO LAST UNTIL TRUE SPRING, REMAINS QUESTIONABLE.

2. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY HEAVY SNOWFALLS THIS WINTER IN

MOUNTAIN AREAS, STREAM AND RESERVOIR LEVELS ARE LOW. "RUDE PRAVO" FEBRUARY 19 REPORTS THAT LEVEL OF LIPNO RESERVOIR ON VLTAVA RIVER IN SOUTHWESTERN BOHEMIA IS 2.5 METERS BELOW TOP, ROUGHLY SAME AS YEAR AGO, BUT THAT EVEN WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT PRECIPITATION, RUNOFFS FROM MOUNTAIN SNOW SHOULD BRING LEVEL TO TOP BY MAY. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, CONTINUED LOCAL WATER SHORTAGES IN CENTRAL BOHEMIA ARE FORCING AUTHORITIES TO TRUCK WATER TO SOME TOWNS; AND ONE WELL-PLACED OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS RECENTLY THAT

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00346 210735Z

WATER PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY IN CZECH REPUBLIC, COULD BECOME SERIOUS

ECONOMIC PROBLEM IN FUTURE. (MUCH OF BOHEMIA HAS ANNUAL
PERCIPITATION UNDER 600 MM., I.E., SIGHTLY LESS THAN OMAHA OR
WICHITA.).
WORTZEL

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NNN

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